

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A frame transfer device, which is connected to another frame transfer device by plural physical channels, comprising:

a means for maintaining logical paths which vary with user traffic and priority of the user traffic; and

a means for forming path frames having a fixed frame length and transfer schedule with respect to each path to transfer the user traffic,

wherein a header part of each path frame comprises i) a field for storing a path number to identify the logical path, ii) a field for storing an ordinal number attached to the path frame at the time of forming the frame, and iii) a pointer field indicating positional information of the first user packet, which first user packet is stored in a payload part of the path frame.

2. (original) A frame transfer device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical channels are optical channels that are defined by wavelengths.

3. (previously presented) A frame transfer device as claimed in claim 2, wherein m logical paths are used in